

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Reference is made to commonly assigned, co-pending U.S.

Patent Applications:

~~Serial~~ Publication Number [] 2003/0099815 by Dontula et al., (Docket 82056) filed of even date herewith entitled "Ethoxylated Alcohol Intercalated Smectite Materials and Method";

~~Serial~~ Publication Number [] 2003/0100655 by Nair et al., (Docket 82858) filed of even date herewith entitled "Polyester Nanocomposites", and

~~Serial~~ Publication Number [] 2003/1418918 by Dontula et al., (Docket 82859) filed of even date herewith entitled "Article Utilizing Block Copolymer Intercalated Clay", the disclosures of which are incorporated herein.--

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Of these optional components, thermally processable onium salts, such as those described in **USSN 10/133,836 (~~docket 81795~~)** and references therein, at a level between 0.1-15 weight% of the polyether block polyamide copolymer, are preferred. Also preferred are pigments and particles, such as those selected from the group consisting of silica, titanium dioxide, talc, barium sulfate, and alumina, with a preferred particle size in the range of 0.2 μm to 10 μm .--